

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01

NIC-01 /067 W

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R 201000Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4524

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: PRC RELEASES "WAR CRIMINALS"

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: PEKING 486

1. ALTHOUGH THE GROC HAS NOT ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE PRC'S DECISION TO GRANT SPECIAL AMNESTY TO 293 "WAR CRIMINALS", ALL MARCH 20 MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE STORY, BUT OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THE PRC'S OFFER TO ALLOW THE MEN TO COME TO TAIWAN. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST, WHICH CARRIED THE ITEM IN A FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CHARACTERIZED THE AMNESTY AS A "UNITED FRONT PLOT... TO FOOL THE PEOPLE OF THE FREE AREAS AND STIR UP THEIR INTERNAL STRUGGLES."

2. THREE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY-CONTROLLED CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS (CHUNG YANG JIH PAO, CHUNG HUA JIH
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PAO AND HSIN SHENG PAO) CARRIED EDITORIALS ON THE

SPECIAL AMNESTY. AS IN THE NEWS REPORTS, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY OF THE RELEASED MEN COMING TO TAIWAN. THE TONE OF ALL THREE EDITORIALS WAS SUMMED UP BY THE CYJP EDITORIAL WHICH SAID, "ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE PALYED WITH AND USED AS UNITED FRONT TOOLS BY THE COMMUNISTS, WE WILL HAVE UNLIMITED CONCERN AND SYMPATHY. AT PRESENT THE MAINLAND IS NOTHING BUT A BIG JAIL; THEY HAVE GONE FROM A SMALL JAIL TO A BIG ONE; HOW CAN THEY HAVE ANY SELF-DETERMINATION OR FREEDOM?"

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE NEGATIVE TONE OF THE EDITORIALS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE GROC WILL NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE REJECTING COMPATRIOTS IMPRISONED BY THE PRC -- ESPECIALLY IF THE QUESTION RECEIVES HEAVY COVERAGE IN PRC PROPAGANDA AND THE OVERSEAS CHINESE PRESS. THIS MAY BE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY POSSIBLE FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN MAINLANDERS OFFICIALS HERE AND THE RELEASED INDIVIDUALS. (WE NOTE, FOR INSTANCE, IN OUR INITIAL REVIEW OF THE NAME LIST THAT AMNESTIED LT GEN HUANG WEI, COMMANDER OF THE 12TH ARMY GROUP HAD HU LIEN -- FORMER DEPUTY CHINESE CAMEY - AND YIN CHUN -- THE CURRENT COMMANDER OF TAIWAN GARRISON GENERAL HEADQUARTERS -- UNDER HIM IN 1949.)

4. AT THE SAME TIME FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY REASONS THE GROC WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PERMIT ANY OF THE RELEASED TO COME TO TAIWAN. PERMISSION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY SOME AS THE BEGINNING OF CONTACTS WITH THE PRC AND BY OTHERS AS OPENING THE DOORS TO "COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVES".

5. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THAT IF INTERNATIONAL MEDIA GIVE SUFFICIENT PLAY TO THE PRC'S OFFER, THE GROC MAY FEEL CONSTRAINED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT OSTENSIBLY WELCOMING THEM TO TAIWAN WHILE PRIVATELY Hoping THEY WON'T COME.

6. SINCE EMBASSY INFORMATION ON GROC OFFICIALS DURING CIVIL WAR PERIOD IS EXTREMELY LIMITED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH HONG KONG, PEKING OR WASHINGTON

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CAN PROVIDE ON THOSE RELEASED, INCLUDING ANY OBVIOUS CONNECTIONS THEY HAVE WITH INDIVIDUALS NOW IN TAIWAN. UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, WAR CRIMES, PRISONERS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI01393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750097-1116
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750330/aaaabawq.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PEKING 486
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC RELEASES "WAR CRIMINALS" CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, TW, (HUA KUO-FENG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006